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President Strengthens National Security Council

By the Associated Press

Washington

President Eisenhower has acted to strengthen and improve operations of the National Security Council, the government's top policy-making unit on general defense matters.

A White House statement said the President is enlarging membership of the council to include Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey and the director of defense mobilization when he is appointed. That agency now is headed on a temporary basis by Arthur S. Flemming.

Council membership heretofore has included Mr. Eisenhower as chairman, Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, Mutual Security Administrator Harold E. Stassen, and the chairman of the National Security Resources Board.

The announcement made no mention of continuing the NSRB chairman as a member.

Early Move Expected

Asked why, White House press secretary James C. Hagerty said there probably will be an announcement dealing with the future of the NSRB later in the week. It has been reported that Mr. Eisenhower wants to merge NSRB with the Office of Defense Mobilization.

Addition of the director of defense mobilization to security council membership indicated such a move may be made soon.

The announcement also disclosed plans for setting up a security council planning board to replace the former senior staff of the council. The board will be made up of advisers from the departments and agencies represented at the council table.

The White House said Mr. Eisenhower "has been giving attention to strengthening and improving the operations of the National Security Council." During the campaign, General Eisenhower said council members had been handicapped because they had so many other duties to perform.

The President feels, the statement said, "that in these critical times the council can afford the greatest possible assistance to the President in deciding policy issues affecting the national security."

Planning Board Members

Mr. Eisenhower named Robert J. Cutler, now an administrative assistant, to serve as special assistant for national security affairs. Mr. Cutler will be the council's principal executive officer and act as chairman of the new planning board.

To the new planning board in addition to Mr. Cutler, the President named: Andrew N. Overby, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Frank C. Nash, Assistant Secretary of Defense; Frank N. Roberts, military adviser to the Mutual Security Director; William Y. Elliott of the Office of Defense Mobilization; Maj. Gen. John K. Gerhart of the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Robert Amory, Jr., assistant deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and George A. Morgan, acting director of the Psychological Strategy Board.

A board member to represent the State Department will be named shortly, the White House said.

In addition to the new and old members of the security council, these men will attend council sessions regularly in the future: Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Allen W. Dulles, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, and C. D. Jackson, special assistant to the President in charge of cold-war planning. Mr. Cutler also will attend council sessions.

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